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Reds Admit Polk Murder, Greeks Say

Repatriates Back
From Russia Tell
About U.S. Reporter

ATHENS, Aug. 27 (AP)—Two Greek former Communists have come back from the Soviet Union with the story that two compatriots there told them they killed the American newsman, George Polk.

Polk, 34, a native of Fort Worth, Tex., was a correspondent for the Columbia Broadcasting System. He was found shot through the head in Salonika Bay May 16, 1948. He had disappeared eight days before while trying to reach Markos Vassilades, Greek Communist guerrilla leader, for an interview.

Polk worked in Washington as a member of the New York Herald Tribune Bureau. The two ex-Communists, sailors John Tsiros and Constantine Dimitriou, were repatriated from the Soviet Union last month after seven years there. They held a news conference Friday for Greek newsmen only. Their story now is in print in Greek newspapers.

They said two Greek Communists bearing the party aliases of Doulevetas and Masavetas told them they killed Polk in Salonika "as instruction of the Greek Communist Party so the Greek government would be implicated internationally." They did not give the men's real names.

Grigory Staktopoulos, leftist Greek journalist, is serving a life term as a convicted accessory in Polk's murder. He was sentenced March 21, 1949. The Communist minister, Evangelos Vassilades, for whose murder, with Polk's in absentia of murder and sentenced to death. The whereabouts are not known.

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